

## **Guidance for Enforcement Agencies Regarding Approval Procedure for Weigh-In Method**

With winter temperatures upon us and without an approved alternative procedure to verify refrigerant charge when temperatures are below 55°F there have been reports of HERS raters conducting verification of refrigerant charge using an unapproved method in order to close permits due to pressure by contractors. In other cases, some enforcement agencies are issuing final building permits on the condition provided in RA 2.4.4 (quoted below). There doesn't appear to be a formalized process to ensure that the HERS rater provide the verification required by the Standards after the final building permit has been issued. The following guidance has been developed to ensure that the HERS rater has been contracted to complete the verification process when outdoor temperatures are 55°F or above and the building permit was approved conditionally.

*From RA 2.4.4*

*If necessary to avoid delay of approval of dwelling units completed when outside temperatures are below 55°F, the enforcement agency may approve compliance credit for refrigerant charge and airflow measurement when installers have used the alternate charging and airflow measurement procedure described in Section RA3.2. This approval will be on the condition that installers provide a signed agreement to the builder with a copy to the enforcement agencies to return to correct refrigerant charge and airflow if the HERS rater determines at a later time when the outside temperature is above 55°F that correction is necessary.*

When the Alternate Charge Measurement Procedure (weigh-in method) is used for refrigerant charge measurement due to outdoor temperatures being below 55°F, the enforcement agency may final on the CF-6R on the condition that the installer provides a signed agreement to the builder or homeowner with a copy to the enforcement agency to return to correct refrigerant charge and airflow if the HERS rater determines that correction is necessary (per RA 2.4.4). The enforcement agency should verify a written agreement is in place between the installer and a certified HERS rater that documents that the HERS rater will measure the refrigerant charge using the Standard Charge Measurement Procedure when outdoor temperatures are 55°F or above and complete and register the required compliance documentation.

This written agreement should be signed by both the installer and the HERS rater and contain the project address and homeowner's/builder's name, the HERS rater's and Installer's names, and specify how the HERS rater will be paid for performing the verification.

This agreement should be submitted to the enforcement agency instead of a CF-4R before the final permit for the project is issued. Therefore, in cases where the Alternate Charge Measurement Procedure is used for refrigerant charge measurement, the enforcement agency may final the permit after receiving the CF-1R, CF-6R, and the written agreement between the HERS rater and installer detailed above. No CF-4R will be required at that time, but the HERS rater will provide the registered CF-4R to the homeowner when the verification is complete and the CF-4R is registered.

For questions or clarification, contact the Energy Commission's Building Standards Hotline at (800) 772-3300.